

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) An operation system comprising:

a driving signal generator including a driving signal output device through which a driving signal is applied to a handpiece that is supposed to generate operating energy;

an expansion unit to be plugged in to the driving signal output device so that it can be unplugged freely, the expansion unit including a selector for selectively transmitting the driving signal, which is received through the driving signal output device, through any one of a plurality of output terminals;

a remote controller for remotely controlling the driving signal output device via the expansion unit;

a switching unit for switching the destinations of the driving signal received by the expansion unit according to a signal induced with a manipulation performed on the remote controller so that the driving signal will be transmitted through one of the plurality of output terminals;

a status signal generator for generating an output terminal status signal that indicates whichever of the output terminals has been selected by the switching unit and whether the selected output terminal is active; and

a display device for indicating based on the output terminal status signal whether the selected output terminal is active.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn) An operation system according to Claim 25, wherein the remote controller is mounted on said handpiece.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn) An operation system according to Claim 25, wherein the remote controller is a keyboard.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn) An operation system according to Claim 25, wherein the handpiece is an ultrasonic handpiece for generating ultrasonic energy as the operating energy.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) An operating system according to Claim 25, further comprising a display device for displaying an endoscopic image and an imaging device for enabling display of the endoscope image on the display device, wherein:

the imaging device enables indication of whether a selected output terminal is active on the display device according to the output terminal status signal.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) An operation system according to Claim 25, further comprising:

shape data representing shapes of handpieces serving as surgical appliances;
a display device for displaying an endoscopic image; and
an imaging device for enabling display of the endoscopic image on the display device, wherein the imaging device includes a pointing mark generating device and a tracking device for tracking a handpiece that serves as a surgical appliance and that is identified based on shape data.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) An endoscopic operation system comprising:

an endoscope used to observe an intracorporeal region;
a signal processor for processing an image signal, which is produced by an imaging device incorporated in the endoscope, to produce a video signal;
an endoscopic image display device for displaying an endoscopic image, which is picked up by the imaging device, according to the video signal;
a plurality of operating handpieces for generating treatment energies;
a driving signal generator for generating a driving signal which causes any operating handpiece out of the plurality of operating handpieces to generate treatment energy;
an output switching unit, connected between the driving signal generator and the plurality of operating handpieces, for switching the routes of an output line over which the driving signal is transmitted;
hand-held members included in the plurality of operating handpieces and held for treatment;

hold detecting devices, included in the hand-held members, the hold detecting devices each producing a predetermined hold detection signal when detecting that the hand-held member is held;

an output switching control unit for receiving the hold detection signal, and controlling the output switching unit so that the output destinations of the driving signal will be switched to select an operating handpiece from which the hold detection signal is transmitted; and

a superimposition unit for superimposing information of a handpiece, from which the hold detection signal is transmitted, on an image displayed on the endoscopic image display device.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) An endoscopic operation system according to Claim 31, wherein the operating handpieces are ultrasonic operation handpieces for generating ultrasonic energy as the treatment energy.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented) An endoscopic operation system according to Claim 31, wherein the operating handpieces are high-frequency electric operation handpieces for generating high-frequency energy as the treatment energy.

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Currently Amended) An operation system ~~according to Claim 34, wherein~~ comprising:

a plurality of handpieces for generating predetermined energies, each of said handpieces including the plurality of handpieces each includes a hand-held member to be held for treatment and a hold detecting device which detects that the hand-held member is held[[:]], and a selection signal generator for generating a first selection signal which indicates that any of the handpieces has been selected,

a driving signal generator generating a driving signal for driving any of said handpieces;

an output switching unit for switching the output destination of the driving signal to the handpiece selected from the plurality of handpieces;

a remote controller for generating a second selection signal, which indicates that any of the handpieces has been selected, to remotely control the output switching unit; and
a switching control unit for controlling the output switching unit in response to one of the first and second selection signal so that the output destination of the driving signal will be switched to the selected handpiece, the selection signal generator ~~transmits~~ further transmitting the selection signal to the switching control unit in response to a detection signal received from the hold detecting device which has detected that the hand-held member is held.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended) An operation system according to Claim 34 35, further comprising:

- an imaging device for imaging a predetermined region to be observed;
- a signal processor for producing a predetermined video signal from an image signal produced by the imaging device;
- a display device for displaying a predetermined view image according to the video signal sent from the signal processor; and
- a superimposition unit for superimposing information of a handpiece, from which the selection signal is transmitted, on the view image displayed on the display device.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) An operation system according to Claim 36, wherein the superimposition unit superimposes on a video image displayed on the display device information of at least one of a type of handpiece from which the selection signal is transmitted.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended) An operation system according to claim 34 35, further comprising:

- a notifier for notifying information of the selected handpiece.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) An energy-selective operation system according to Claim 38, wherein the notifier notifies whether a selected handpiece is active.